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JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *March 18, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the continued absence of epidemic quarantinable disease in Japan still with the exception of Formosa, where a few cases of plague continue persistently to appear.

The arrangement with the steamship companies recently effected, and which I report fully elsewhere, will, I trust, enable me more efficiently to carry out the laws as to treatment of passengers prior to embarkation.

Respectfully,

STUART ELDRIDGE, M. D.,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., Sanitary Inspector.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

Arrangements for detention of passengers.

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, *March 18, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that I have, at length, been able to arrange with the various steamship companies carrying passengers from here, that they shall supply the facilities necessary for the ante-embarkation treatment of dangerous passengers, required by the laws of the United States.

The companies have taken over the plant I had already established under the emergency of the outbreak of plague last winter, and it will be immediately completed and fitted to provide for detention under isolation, as well as for disinfection only.

The buildings are well adapted for the purposes required, and will probably accommodate all passengers likely to require treatment, now that the rush for Hawaii is over. Should further buildings be needed there is ground enough for the erection of temporary or additional houses for detention.

I have not insisted upon the furnishing of a steam disinfecting plant at present for three reasons—first, that I doubted the possibility of getting it out of the companies until time shall show the advantages and necessity of the new arrangement; secondly, because such plant could not be imported or built in time to be of use in connection with the dreaded outbreak of plague within the next two months; and, thirdly, because we can obtain but a six months' lease of the present premises, though with the probability of a much longer extension.

I shall continue to use the large formaldehyd apparatus which I have recently been employing, and supplement it by another, in case of breakdown or sudden pressure of work.

All expenses of every kind are assumed by the companies concerned, but the appointment of staff and the supervision of the work will be in my hands.

I go to Kobe to-morrow for the purpose of investigating the question of the shipment of rags, to get matters generally in more satisfactory form, and to endeavor to establish the same or a similar arrangement with the steamship companies there as that just made at this port.

The steerage travel from Nagasaki is, practically, nil, and, in the case of the outbreak of plague or cholera there, I should advise the steamship companies to refuse all natives from that port, but allowing them to go by rail to Kobe or Yokohama, there to embark, after due treatment.